GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2169
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2001
IRRIGATION PROJECTS
AVSM, BRIG.(RETD.) KAMAKHYA PRASAD SINGH DEO

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the feasibility of implementing irrigation projects with the assistance of private sector;

(b) if so, the response of various States regarding Participation of Private Sector;

(c) whether any project has been identified in the States for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) to (d) The Government of India had constituted a High Level Committee under the Chairmanship of the then Union Minister of State for Water Resources to examine the feasibility and scope of Private Sector Participation in irrigation and multi-purpose projects. The Committee submitted its report in December, 1995, which, inter-alia, recommended promoting private sector participation in Irrigation and multipurpose projects, and also to consider giving incentives such as tourism, tax holidays, floating tax-free revenue bonds/loans at concessional rates including moratorium on repayment, development of pisiculture, limited use of reservoir water for horticulture, right of water sports, navigation in reservoir areas, lands for commercial exploitation on embankments, etc.

A copy of the report was sent to all the States/UTs for necessary followu-up action and feedback on the report. Most of the States have indicated lack of scope of private sector participation in this sector except Maharashtra, Gujarat, Orissa and U.P.

The Planning Commission, Governmentof India has constituted a Working Group on Private Sector and Beneficiaries Participation Programme for formulation of the tenth Five Year Plan in November, 2000.